

# LESSER KNOWN Love

ROMANS 12:9-16



*May 24, 2020*

## PREPARE

*Locate a candle to light and communion elements to use (bread/juice or whatever is available to you).*

*Find a quiet place by yourself or with others.*

*Read through the instructions, prayers, scripture, and questions below. You can also find a guided, voice-led version of this digital liturgy at [southelkhorncc.org/digital-liturgy](https://southelkhorncc.org/digital-liturgy)*

## WELCOME THE LIGHT

Welcome to worship with South Elkhorn Christian Church. Light a candle if you are able and receive these words:

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**South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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## CALL TO WORSHIP

Be glad and rejoice, for in our joy we reveal God's glory  
And Christ's loving presence.

## CENTERING & LORD'S PRAYER

God, here we are again, another week has passed, and we are still worshipping from our homes. We could have never predicted this, and it is still hard to process this new reality. We miss being together on Sunday mornings, greeting each other with big hugs and smiles, watching children run around the building with donuts in their hands and on their faces, and gathering in one room to worship You with great joy. We miss those moments. We miss each other. How we long for that connection again as a church family.

Yet, we have learned quickly not to take life for granted, so for our family, our friends, our homes, our health, we thank you. And God, we thank you for our church and even though we are not physically together, we are still connected because of You. We can all agree that this is not the way we prefer to worship as a family of faith, but we are grateful for technology to stay connected the best ways we can during this unusual time. And thank you most of all, that You remain with us and that Your love never leaves us.

May we grasp ahold of that love, especially on days when it is hard to smile. May Your love dwell within us, and around us, a love so deep and so big that we want to share it with others, a love that we cannot keep to ourselves, a love that will change the world, let it begin with us, today, here, in this moment.

And now with great love, hear us as we say the prayer Jesus that taught, saying:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:9-16

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

## SERMON OUTLINE

Self Talk.

Elite runners don't just talk to themselves in some general way while they run, they are very specific.

They target specific muscle groups, body motions, and their breathing. They say to themselves "breathe in, breathe out" or "relax your shoulders."

General self-talk is not nearly as effective.

Love is...

St. Paul knows the power of getting specific, too; and the danger of keeping things general.

This is why St. Paul digs deep into what love means, into the specifics of love: it's musculature, posture, and breathing.

"Rejoicing in joy" is the posture of love. It's what keeps love up and moving.

"Patience in suffering" is the musculature of love. It's what keeps love from burning up and burning out.

"Persevering in prayer" is the breathing of love. Breathing in the presence of God, breathing out the peace of God.

## SCRIPTURE

*Place before you bread and a cup of juice (or whatever you have on hand to use). If you are*

*with others, serve one another with the blessing, “The bread of life, the cup of hope.”*

The Lord be with you,

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The communion elements before you unite us in Christ’s Spirit one to another. Christ’s life, death, and resurrection unite us to God’s infinite and all-inclusive Love. All are welcome to the Table, and all are invited to remember...

### *THE BREAD*

“The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it...”

*Hold the bread and, if possible, break it.*

“...and said, ‘This is my body which is for you, do this in remembrance of me.’”

### *THE CUP*

*Hold the cup. If you have not already, pour juice (or whatever you have on hand) into the cup.*

“After supper, Jesus took the cup saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’”

### *PRAYER*

Gracious and Loving God, You have made us for connection. In this time of separation and isolation send to us your Spirit. That we might experience your sustaining presence and be encouraged with hope through the fellowship of your love. Amen.

*Receive and prayerfully enjoy the bread and the cup.*

## **GENEROSITY**

*Prayerfully consider someone to reach out to with a word of love, encouragement, or*

*prayer. Write a card. Make a phone call. Or identify a time to do so today (or in the week ahead).*

Tithes and offerings can be mailed to South Elkhorn or you can give online at

[southelkhorncc.org/give](https://southelkhorncc.org/give)

## **CHANGING THE LIGHT**

Now it is time to change the light. The light that was in one place at one time, is now in all places at all times.

In this very room and everywhere we go. And all God's children said, Amen.

*Extinguish the candle and watch the smoke rise.*

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## **UPDATES**

Visit [southelkhorncc.org/blog](https://southelkhorncc.org/blog) to learn the latest on worship, building usage, and more.

Digital Worship & Wonder videos available at [southelkhorncc.org/worship-wonder](https://southelkhorncc.org/worship-wonder).

Subscribe to South Elkhorn's text messaging alerts by texting:

@southelk to the number 81010